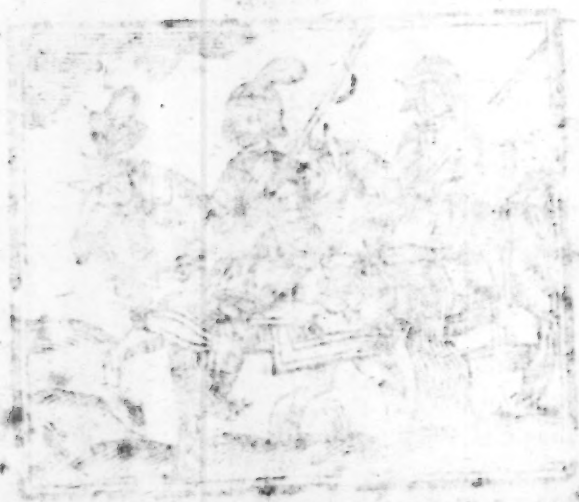


THE GALLANT
HISTORY
OF THE
Life and Death
Of that most Noble Knight SIR
BEVIS
OF
Southampton.

Wherein is contained much Variety of Pleasant and Delightful
Reading.



Printed by A. D. for E. Deacon, at the Angel in Gilt-spur Street
without Newgate.



The Gallant
HISTORY
 OF
Bevis of Southampton

Of the Birth of Bevis, and of the Death of his Father.

IN the Reign of Edgar, King of England, there was a most Renowned Knight, whose Name was Sir Guy, the Earl of Southampton, whose Deeds did exceed all the Valiant Knights of this Kingdom. who, thirsting after Fame, betook himself to Travel: And first he sailed into France, Flanders, Almain, Brabant, Sicily, Denmark, Calice, Gascoine, Hungary, Spain, Eastland, Norway, Picardy, Scotland, Lombardy, Wales: All these parts he tra-elled in his Youth, and Conquered all his Opposers with his Unmaster'd strength, and Victorious hand, fighting under the Banner of Christ, against all Withstanders whatsoever they were. Thus spending the best part of his strength for the Glory of Chrl, and honour of his Country, he then returned into England again: King Edgar hearing

that Sir GUY was returned, sent a Messenger for him presently to do him honour for the valiant deeds that he had done: Sir GUY with all speed rode to the King, by whom he was royally entertained, and all his Nobles; and after great feasting, the King according to Sir GUY's desert, made him high Steward of England: then Sir GUY would betake him to a Wife, and the King of Scotland having a fair daughter, Sir GUY made suit unto her: But the Emperors brother of *Almain* was a suitor unto her likewise, and she loved Sir *Murdure* better than she loved Sir GUY, but the King, her father knowing Sir GUY to be a most Noble peer of England, he gave his daughter to him in Marriage: Yet still she affected *Murdure* best; but GUY not knowing her hatred to him, returned with great pomp into England, with his deceitful Lady. Not long after this he had a Son by her, and they named him *Bevis*: At the Birth of this Child was exceeding Joy and Triumph, with many Banquetings; then Sir GUY was confident his Ladys heart was firmly link'd to his, with the never-breaking bands of Love; but he good Knight was much deceived; for she (like *Janus*) bore a double face, one for Sir GUY, which frowned, but the other, which was for Sir *Murdure*, smiled, for his wife perceiving he was old, betook her self to love Sir *Adurdure*, and called a servant to her, whom she might well trust, and said: *Thou must sail into Almain with speed, and keep my secrets, and say unto Sir Murdure the Emperors brother, that I greet him kindly, and that I do desire him, to provide a great company of Knights and gentlemen to come along with him to England, with all speed, and meet my Husband, which is hateful to me to look on, and tell him, that I will send Sir GUY into my forrest, purposely to be Slain by Sir Murdure; and then tell him I am his: bid him perform this and live with me; the time he shall meet Sir GUY, shall be on the first of May.* The message being delivered, Sir *Murdure* was resolved to perform what she had commanded: So on the first of May she feigned her self very sick and weak, and called for her husband, and said unto him, *That she would desire him to go into the forrest, and slay a Wild beast for her to Eat.* This worthy Knight not thinking of her treachery, took a Speed, girt a sword about him, and with a spear in his hand, rode to the forrest with speed.

By

By this time Sir *Murdure* and his Company was entred the Forrest, who meeting Sir GUY, said, *Traytor, for the love I bear to thy Lady, thou shalt quickly lose thy life, and after this, I'll Slay thy Son; for why? thy wife belongs to me.* With that Sir GUY set spurs to his horse, and Rode with such violence against this *Murdure*, that he threw him out of his saddle: then Sir *Murdure* thinking he should have been slain, cryed out to his Followers, who came presently and set upon Sir GUY, and swore he should lose his life, then Sir GUY desired but to fight with Sir *Murdure* hand to hand, and then if he lost his life, he would forgive them all, but they would not grant his Request, but slew him presently, and cut off his head, and sent it to his Lady, who Received it joyfully, and gave the Messenger a great Reward; this Treachery being accomplished, Sir *Murdure* made hast unto the Castle of Sir GUY, and there was Royally received of Sir GUY's Wife; where for a while I leave them to their pleasures, and now come to speak of Young *Bevis*.



CHAP. 2.

How Bevis kept Sheep: and how he went to his Fathers House, and Slew the Porter of the gate, and many other things that happened.

BEVIS hearing how basely his Father was killed, ran to his Mother, and vowed if ever he came to age, that he would be Revenged on her, and on that base Traytor, Sir *Murdure*. With that his Mother gave her son a Box on the Ear, which felled poor *Bevis* to the ground: Sir *Sabere*, being brother to Sir GUY, was very sorrowful for the Death of his brother, and seeing his Nephew so misused, catch'd him up in his arms and carried him away: his Mother sent presently after Sir *Sabere*, privately to murder her son *Bevis*, Sir *Sabere* said he would, and drest *Bevis* in old cloaths,

Cloaths, and sent him to keep his Sheep: So *Bevis* went to the top of a Hill near his Father's Castle, where his Uncle's Sheep were. In the mean time Sir, *Sabere* killed a pig, and dypt the Garments of the Child in the blood thereof; poor *Bevis* all this while sat weeping upon the Hill, but hearing Trumpets sounding at his Father's Castle, and much melody for joy that his Mother had obtained her desire. *Bevis* cast off care of keeping Sheep, and ran with his Shepherds crook on his shoulder to the Castle, and knocking at the gate, the porter denied him entrance: with that young *Bevis* with his crook gave him such a bang on the crown, which told the porter to the Earth, then into the Hall he went, where Sir *Mordure* sat at table with his Mother, and many Knights and Ladies (though all in Rags he shewed them of what house he came on) & with a violent blow, struck Sir *Mordure* under the Table, and swore if it had not been against Nature, he would send his Mother after his own Father. With that all the Knights in the Hall fought to lay hands on him, but *Bevis* forced his way through the midst of them, & got clear away: Sir *Sabere* meeting *Bevis* running from the Castle, said, *Where hast thou been?* *Bevis* answered, *at my fathers Castle, where I slew the Porter of the Gate, and knocked my father under the Table, and was about to kill my Mother, but that Nature taught me the Contrary: alas, said his Uncle, thou hast betrayed us both, yet once more will I save thee.* The Mother of *Bevis* (like a woman Distracted of her wits) came running to her Brother in great haste, and said: *What hast thou not slain that young Villian?* *Madam*, quoth he, *he is dead: Villian*, said she, *thou lyest, if thou dost not make him away the sooner, it shall cost thy life, and his too:* *Madam*, said he, *behold his Cloaths dipped in blood:* *Bevis*, hearing her speeches, crept out of the chamber, and was ready to tear her in pieces, but she escaped out of his hands by the help of her brother, then she entreated Sir *Sabere*, and another Knight to cast *Bevis* into the Sea and drown him, which they did consent unto to pacifie her wrath.

CHAP. 3.

How Bevis was sold unto the Pagans, and carried over the Sea into Armony, and presented to King Ermine.]

AND going to the Sea-side, they met with Merchants of *Armony*, Sir *Sabere* sold *Bevis* to them; the Merchants soon arrived in *Armony*, and then presented *Bevis* unto the King, the King gave them many thanks, and swore by his God *Alabound*, he never saw such a sweet fac'd boy in all his life: Then the King asked him where he was born? In *England*, said *Bevis*. Whose Son wast thou there? said the King, Sir *Guy's* of *Southampton*, quoth *Bevis*: I have heard much talk of thy Father, said the King, and by report he was a Valiant Knight as ever, yet drew Sword: I have but one fair Daughter (said the King) and if thou wilt forsake thy GOD, and serve *Apoline* our God, thou shalt have my daughter to Wife, and enjoy my Kingdom after me. Not so, my Lord (said *Bevis*) for all the beautys in the world I would not deny my Creator. Then (said the King) wilt thou be my Chamberlain? and when I find thy desert, I'll dub thee a Knight, and thou shalt bear my Standard in the field against my Foes. What you please to command me my Lord, said he, save the denying of my God, I will do. *Bevis* was so beloved of the King, that none durst speak against him; nay, *Josian* the King's daughter was in love with him. As it chanced on *Christmas-day*, *Bevis* Rode into the field to recreate himself, & meeting with three-score *Sarazens*, one of them asked him what day it was? *Bevis*, answered, I know not, for I was not seven years old when I came out of my own Country. Then, said the *Sarazens*, upon this day thy God was born, and wilt thou not honour thy God on his Birth-day. Yes, said *Bevis*, if I was as well armed as my father was, you should know that I would honour this day better than ever you honoured your God *Apoline*. With that they all run upon him, thinking to kill him presently; but *Bevis* having no Weapon, got one of their swords away, & with the same made their steeds to run home without their Riders; for he slew and wounded all the *Sarazens*. The King hearing what *Bevis* had done against his god *Apoline*, swore he

he should dye; then *Yosian* down on her knees, and desired her Father that *Bevis* might live, which the King granted: Then *Yosian* went to *Bevis* and kissed him, and dressed his Wounds, and then she brought him to the King her Father; who, when he saw *Bevis* so Wounded, the tears Ran down his cheeks, and then he prayed *Yosian* to do the best she could to cure his wounds, which she performed in a little space, so *Bevis* grew as sound as ever he was,



C H A P. 4.

How Bevis one Morning Slew a mighty Wild Boar, in the Forrest.

WITHIN that country there was a great Forrest, and within the same there was a mighty Wild Boar, that Devoured Man, Woman, and Child; *Bevis* hearing of him, one morning early he saddled his Steed, and took a good sword by his side, and Rode to the *forrest* to try a combat with this wild Boar; and Riding to and fro, it was his luck to find the cave where this Wild Boar was, and as he tied his Steed to the tree, out came the Boar, and so assailed *Bevis*, that he was fain to shrink back: Then *Bevis* Recovering ground, made at him with a spear, and burst it in all in pieces; then he drew out his sword, and laid many a heavy blow upon the Boars bristles, but could not make any entrance into the flesh; and at last by good Fortune the boar came at him with an open mouth, and *Bevis* having that advantage, with one violent blow cut his upper Jaw assunder; at which the boar gave such a cry as would have frightened a thousand men, had they been in the hearing, of it: Then into his throat *Bevis* thrust his sword & killed him outright, and with much ado cut off his head, and stuck it upon the Truncheon of his Spear, and so mounted himself upon his steed, and as he was Riding homewards, twelve *forristers* set upon him to take the Boars-head away, that they might get the honour which *Bevis* had ventured his life for: and indeed *Bevis* was unprovided, for he with very joy that he had slain the boar left his sword behind him; but yet he made a pretty shift with them, for he killed

seeing *Radison* was slain, his heart began to faint: The armies both did fight courageously, and many men were lost on both sides: then *Brandmond* took two of *Bevis's* Knights prisoners, but *Bevis* met with them, and felled *Brandmond* to the ground, horse and all, and took him Prisoner: O Sir, said *Bevis*, i'll have you to *Josian*: save my life, cryed *Brandmond*, and have me whither thou wilt: so *Bevis* Returned with great Victory, and was Royally entertained of the King, and then *Josian* broke her mind to *Bevis*, quoth she, by *Maybound*, I do desire to be thy Love: Not so Lady, said *Bevis*, i'll wed no Heathennels; which words she took very scornfully; *Bevis* perceiving her anger, said, Lady adieu, for I shall never see you again, and so he left her, and went to his Chamber; then *Josian's* heart began to throb, and what to do she knew not; at last she sent two Knights unto him, to desire him to come unto her, but *Bevis* would not; then she went her self, and said, my Lord, I would intreat you not to leave me now, but grant me that I shall be thy Wife, and I'll do whatsoever thou wilt have me to do; I'll forsake my Gods and turn a Christian for your sake, Sir Knight, or any thing else that will please you: at these words Sir *Bevis's* heart began to melt, and being overjoyed, he took her in his arms and kissed her; The two Knights that *Bevis* redeemed from *Brandmond*, hearing what words passed between *Bevis* and *Josian*, told to the King, which made him mad with *Bevis*; so bring *Bevis* to his end, the King wrote Letters to *Brandmond* to put *Bevis* to Death, who was the Bearer of the Letters, where I will leave him, and speak a little of *Bevis's* Uncle, Sir *Sabre*, who was much grieved for *Bevis*, and sent his son *Ferry* in search for him, who travelled many Heathen Lands, yet could not find out *Bevis*; but he swore never to see *England* again, if he found him not.

CHAP. 6.

How Bevis went on his Journey with Letters from King Ermine; to King Brandmond, which concerned his own life, and how he fought with the Sarazens in Damas, and how he pull'd down the Idols, and how they put him in Prison, and what after befel.

THEN took *Bevis* his Letters, and posted away towards the Land of *Pavy*, and as he Rode, he saw a Palmer, to whom he said: What Country-man are you good Palmer? I am an *English-man* (said the Palmer) and seek for one I cannot find: What is his Name? (said *Bevis*) His name is *Bevis*, said the Palmer, my Fathers Brothers Son: I have heard of his Name, quoth he, but I do not know him: I would I could find him, said the Palmer: he is about these Countrys, said he: so after some discourse they parted; for *Bevis* would not make himself known, but away Rode he to *Damas* City, where the King did live, which was a most stately place: and entring into the streets, the Heathens were sacrificing to their gods, which was odious for him to behold: What Devil do you serve here? said *Bevis*, and run to the god *Mahound*, and pulled him down from the Altar, and threw him into the Channel: Then all the *Sarazens* fought with *Bevis*, but he plaid his part so valiantly, that he made the streets to run down with blood; for he laid about him so fast, that there was full two hundred *Sarazens* killed that bout: Then some went to the King and told him all that had befel to the god *Mahound*, and how many were killed; the King all in a Rage, swore by *Mahound* *Apolins*, and *Terganant*, he should dye for his bold attempt, and as the King was going to see what he should be that had done this Outrage, *Bevis* met him at the gate of his Pallace, and seeing the King, fell down on his knees, and delivered his message: The King took the Letters and did read them, and they proved Treason against poor *Bevis*; to this effect they were: That King *Brandmond* should put *Bevis* to death: thus *Ermine* betrayed him that before had kept him from Destruction: *Bevis* seeing what he must trust to, with manly courage began to make another great slaugh-

ter amongst them, four or five at every blow he brought to the ground, he struck such heavy stroaks that his Sword broke, & after with his Fists brought to the ground sixty *Sarazens* more: At last the multitude overcome him, and bound his hands that he could not stir. *Alas*, said *Bevis*, *Let me not dye a Dogs death, but give me an Horse and Armor, and a good Sword, and I will fight against an hundred thousand of you, so I die fairly in the field I care not*: but all cryed out against him, and said Hang him, others said burn him, some said, starve him to Death: Then bespake the King; He shall be devoured by the two Dragons in the Dungeon, with that they were all contented; so in the Dungeon was he cast, but they untied his hands by good fortune: In the Dungeon he found the Truncheon of a spear: The Dragons seeing a prey, made at him very strongly, but he dispatcht them both, and then he was at rest a while.

C H A P. 7.

How Josian Demanded of her Father what was become of Bevis.

Father, said *Josian*, where is *Sir Bevis*? He Replied, *he is gone to his Country*. At this time came King *Jour*, intending for to wed *Josian*, which he obtained. And *Ermine* gave *Jour* *Arundel* and *Morglay*, which belonged to *Bevis*. This *Josian* no way could avoid. Now all this time *Bevis* was in Prison, and the Keepers would go down to see him being he had been there betwixt of seven years, and fed with nothing but Bread and Water, they thought he was wondrous feeble, but he was so strong, that he kill'd them both being in night, & so got out clear, & took a steed and away he rode: Now when he was gone, they quickly followed, and *Sir Grandere* mounted on *Trunchise*, overtook him: With that *Bevis* turned about, and smote *Grandere* on the head, which blow clove him in sunder down to the girdle; then *Bevis* leapt off his steed, and got upon *Trunchise*; then he rode forward again: By this time many thousands of *Sarazens* were in pursuit after him, & followed him so close, that he was forced on *Trunchise* back to swim over the River; and when he was come to Land, with very

very hunger he was ready to faint; and as he rid along, he saw a Castle, where a great ugly Gyant lived that was Sir Grandere's Brother; thither he hyed, and hounced at the Gate, which roused the Gyant out of a Dream, and coming out, said, How now Fellow? what art thou weary of thy life? How camest thou by *Trunchise*, my Brother's Steed? Why said Bevis, as I served thy brother, so I'll serve thee presently: I come for Food, and that I'll have before I go: Wilt thou so, quoth the Gyant; by *Apoline* I swear thou shalt win it before thou hast it: I, I, said Sir Bevis, I'll Dine at thy Castle, and thou shalt sup with the Devil; shall I so, quoth he, and up with a mighty bar of Iron, and struck at him, which blow he wonderfully mist, but it beat out *Trunchise's* brains: Bevis seeing that, nimbly leapt out of his saddle, and laid upon the Gyant most stoutly: The Gyant finding that he was very strong, with aviolent force he struck a Dart into his shoulder, then in the heat of blood he made a full blow at the Gyant, which parted his head from his body: then into the Castle went Bevis, and forced the Gyant's wife to Fast both Meat and Drink, & he fed after her: Then into the Stable he went, and took a goodly horse, and rode away from thence to find out fair *Josian*, whom he dearly loved: and it happened that he met with a poor Palmer, to whom he said, Who liveth in yonder Castle? Marry quoth the Palmer, there dwelleth King *Jour*, that married the fair Lady *Josian*; and is the Queen living, said he? Yes, Sir Knight, said the poor Palmer: I will give thee my Steed for thy Weed, said he, with all my heart, reply'd the Palmer, and thank you too: then he leaped off his back, and gave his Steed to the Palmer, and so put on the Palmer's Weed, then he took his way to the Castle, where he found abundance of Joys more than he looked for, but as the first *Josian* did not know him, yet still he and she talked, that he got so far into *Josian's* favour, that she gave him leave to see *Arundel*, and then she knew Sir Bevis: For his Steed *Arundel* hearing him speak, broke seven chains asunder, and Neighed: Then *Josian* took Bevis aside into her Garden, and there they both concluded to be gone: *Boniface* her Chamberlain was a trusty friend unto her, and vowed to farther their Journey, he would do his best: Then said *Josian* to Bevis; My Lord, you shall stay about my Castle a while, and you shall

say

say to the King that you came from *Jury*, and that King *Bradwin* is besieged by the King of *Syrack*, and how he is like to lose his Kingdom: In the mean time King *Jour* came home, and *Bevis* told him all that *Josian* bid him: *Why sent he not to me*, said the King? *He did send*, replied he, *but his messengers were taken by Syrack*: then *Jour* swore by *Mahound* he would Revenge his Brothers wrong: so with all speed he raised an army, and went to help his Brother, and left Sir *Grassy* to Rule in his stead till his return; King *Jour* being gone, they gave Sir *Grassy* a sleepy Drink, which made him lie like one that was dead for four and forty hours: in the mean time *Bevis*, *Josian*, and *Boniface*, got great store of Monys, and costly Jewels, and then away they came for *England*; and as these three travelled, they were so hard pursued by Sir *Grassy*, that they were forced to take for their succour a Cave for shelter, so there they stayed all one night; next morning Sir *Bevis* went out to kill some Beast or other to dress for *Josian*, for she was hungry: the while *Bevis* was abroad, there came into the Cave two dreadful Lyons which slew poor *Boniface* and eat him; whilst *Josian* trembling with fear, the Lyons went to her & laid their heads in her lap: by this time *Bevis* returned unto the Cave, and seeing the blood and bones of *Boniface*, wondered at it, & entering the cave, *Josian* said, Good *Bevis* be careful, for here is two Lyons in the Cave with me, and they have slain *Boniface* and eaten him; *Bevis* answered, art thou alive? by this I know thou art a pure Maid. *Josian* replied, I will hold the one, while thou Kill the other: Nay (said he) let them both come together; then *Josian* set them both at liberty, and they came full drive at him; but he, with his good Morglay, slew them both presently; & so the quarrel was ended: then *Bevis* and *Josian* refreshed themselves, & rode onward on their Journey; and as they went, there met them *Ascapart* an ugly Giant, who was thirty foot in length, and a foot between his Eye-brows, he was bristled like a swine, and his blubber lips hung a one side; and meeting, *Ascapart* said, Stand, thou and thy Lady must go along with me: Not so, said *Bevis*, thou shalt have but one of us, for I will try my Manhood with thee first, and if you get the day, take it and welcome: then *Josian* held *Arondel* the whilst he fought with *Ascapart*; the fight continued a long time, yet *Bevis* avoiding his heavy blows; gave *Ascapart* many a wound, made

made him roar extreemly ; and being mad, he laid at him with his cruel bat, thinking for to beat out his brains, but with that stroak his foot slipt, & down he fell ; *Bevis* would have smote off his head, but *Yosian*, being pittiful, said, *Do not so, let him go with us ; Lady (said Bevis) he may betray us : by all my gods, said Ascapart, I swear if thou wilt save my life, I will be true to thee and thy Lady, and do you all the service I can. Then rise and live, said Bevis : So Bevis and Yosian mounted Arandel, and away they rode, with Ascapart by their side, till they came to the Sea, where they found many Sarazens, and a ship bound for Christendon, but the Sarazens would not ferry them to the ship ; then Bevis & Ascapart made great slaughter among them, and killed abundance of them ; then said Ascapart, let me alone, I will carry you to the ship, wife and all : so he took the horse under his arm, with Bevis and Yosian, and waded to the ship, where they had welcome, & so sailed into the land of Colen, where dwelt a Bishop that was Bevis's Kinsman, who had them very welcome ; and after much discourse, the Bishop said, What Country Lady is this ? Bevis answered, The King of Almonies Daughter, and she would become a Christian for my sake : and what ill favoured Lubber is this ? (said the Bishop) He is my Page, said he, and Yosian and he would faine be Christened. This Lubber is too big to be carried by a Midwife to the Font, said the Bishop. That is true, quoth Sir Bevis. But in the end, Yosian was Christened by the Bishop, and Ascapart had a Font made on purpose (to be Christened in) that was very large ; but when he came to be christened, Out Devil (quoth Ascapart) thou wilt drench me, I am too big to be Christened by thee ; and leapt over the Font, and away he went.*

CHAP. 8.

How Bevis Slew a Dreadful Dragon, and what after ensued.



BEvis being in bed, heard a Knight cry *I Roar, I Roar*, at which sad noise Bevis wondred, and the next Morning he asked what was the cause of that noise: *He was a Knight, said they, that coming through the street the Dragon met with, and cast her Poison upon him, wherof he died And dyed.* Where is that Dragon? said Bevis. Not far from this Place, said they. Then Bevis called Ascapart to go with him, and Ascapart was very willing: So together they went, and when they came near the place where the Dragon was, they heard the dreadfulest Yell that ever was: *What Devil is that?* quoth Ascapart. It is the Dragon said Bevis, we shall see him anon. *I'll go no further,* said Ascapart, *if she Roars so loud before we come to her, what will she do when we fight with her.* Fear not, said Bevis, we will teach her how to hold her Tongue. *Marry teach her thy self,* said Ascapart,

Ascapart, for I will go back again: Then farewell, said *Bevis*, I will go my self; so forward went *Bevis*, and backward went *Ascapart*, *Bevis* coming near her Den, she made forth, but never was such a Dragon seen in the world as this was, from her head to Tail was full forty foot, her scales glittered as bright as silver, and hard as flint; have-at thy Devils face said *Bevis*, and out he drew his good *Adwyley* (& on the Dragon laid) but her face was so hard his sword cry'd tynny, and never entered: then the Dragon struck *Bevis* into the ground, and up he got again: but the common folkers that *Bevis* went back, and by chance fell into a Well, else the Dragon had destroyed him: it seems the well was holy water, & no Venom might come within seven foot of it: then *Bevis* refreshed himself and drank of the water, and recovering his strength, to the Dragon he went again to have the other bout: but the Dragon assailed him so fast, that *Bevis* was almost as good as have lost his life, yet with a valiant heart he stood on his ground: the Dragon finding him so strong, belch'd a gallon of her venom upon him, which fell him dead to the ground, & his Armour burst all to pieces: the Dragon seeing he lay so still, he curled him with her tail, that he tumbled into the Well, and the water that he drank of the Venom, and made himself sick and fainted again: and when they had fought a long time, the Dragon would have him gone, and thinking to raise her self, lifted up her wings, here at this now, said *Bevis*, and without sound blow, hitting her under the wing, pierced her to the heart: with that she gave such a cry, which made the earth tremble: she being dead, *Bevis* embraced her, and run it upon his spear, and so rode home: And when the people saw him coming, they gave a great shout, as at a Kings Coronation, and all the bells in the town did Ring, and all manner of mickell play'd before *Bevis*: as he Rode through the Town, where, with great joy, his Uncle received him.

CHAP. 9.

How Bevis raised an Army against Sir Murdure:

NOW *Bevis* was willing to give over Travel, and see to get his own Inheritance; He therefore got an Hundred Valiant Souldiers of his Uncle, and sailed into England, and landed near unto *Southampton*, and sent a Knight unto *Sir Murdure*, to tell him that a Knight of *Almain*, hearing of his troubles, was come to aid and assist him against *Sir Sabere*: The Knight having told his Message, *Sir Murdure* desired to see him: *Bevis* knowing that, went to the Castle: *Sir Murdure* and his Wife bid him very welcome, and then desired to know his Name: my Name is *Gervard* said *Bevis*, and I hearing of these Wars, having brought over a Hundren Chosen Men, to help to maintain your right: I give you thanks, said *Sir Murdure*; but you must furnish us with Horse and Arms (quoth *Bevis*) I, and of the best I have too: for every Man shall have his own Steed and Arms, said *Sir Murdure*: Then have at *Sir Sabere*, said *Bevis*: So to supper they went, and after supper, *Sir Murdure*, to make his matter good, told *Bevis*, that the Castle was once another Knights that was his Predecessor: And said he, by Misfortune was Slain: Had he never a Child by his Lady? Yes, said *Sir Murdure*: Is he Dead or living? said *Bevis*, I know not, quoth he, when he was Young he sold me his Castle, and all his Inheritance, and spent the Money, and went beyond sea; and what is become of him I cannot tell: If he were such a one said *Bevis*, it is no matter where he is. So after many several discourses of Foreign Countreys, to Bed they went, and then *Bevis* and his Men were furnished with all things fitting for service. Ships being prepared for that purpose, they took their leaves of *Sir Murdure* and his Lady for that time, and sailed to the *Ile of White*, where *Sir Sabere* dwelt,

CHAP.



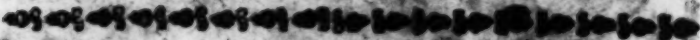
CHAP. 10.

How a Knight Wedded fair Josian in Colen, against her Will, and what after befel.



Josian all this while was in Colen with *Ascapart*; in that Country lived a Knight, called the Earl of *Milo*, who loved *Josian*; but she would not yield unto his will; to take her by force he durst not, for fear of *Ascapart*: therefore he wrote Letters in the Name of Sir *Bevis*, that *Ascapart* should come to him: When he had done, he sent the Letters to *Josian*, and she received them as from Sir *Bevis*, and Reading them, she was very glad to hear from

from her dearest Friend: So she gave the bearer a great Reward, and sent *Ascapart* with him, not thinking how she was betray'd: When they came to the Castle, *Ascapart* was put into a dungeon, instead of seeing his Master: then the lustful Earl went to *Josian*; and told her how he had served her, and *Ascapart* was fast in the Castle: *Hast thou served me so*, said she, *think not hereby ever to have thy will on me*: Then the villian would have Ravished her, but she (rather than suffer Rape) yielded to marry him: then he was very Joyful, and, sent for all the Knights & Gentlemen, & the next day was marryed to *Josian*; and after great feasting at Night, to bed he went, and all his valiant Knights was in the Chamber with him: then *Josian* (to have opportunity) pray'd him to send all the company away, which was performed presently; the Curtains being close about the bed, she made a Noose, and as he sat by the bed-side, she slipping it over his head strangled him, & hung him over a beam: In the morning his Friends came to give him Joy: *Josian* said, look where he hangs: then they were all amazed, yet they took *Josian*, and carried her to a Stake to be burned. In the mean time *Ascapart* broke out of the Castle, and got into a Fisher-boat, then rowing himself to land, he met with *Bevis*, and told all that had happened: so they both went and found *Josian* at a stake to be burned; there they fought Courageously, and released *Josian*, and they went all three to Sir *Sabre*, where they were royally entertained.



C H A P. 17.

How Bevis and Sir Sabre raised Arms against Mordure, with other things that happened.

Then *Bevis* sent word to Sir *Mordure*, that he thanked him for his Arms, and bid him prepare for battle, Sir *Mordure* and his Host came to the *Ile of White*, where *Bevis* was with him, and between them was a bloody battle: Sir *Sabre*, *Bevis*, and *Ascapart* made such havock with them that they slew all that came near them: and *Ascapart* took Sir *Mordure* and carried him to the

The king, and put him in a Cauldron of boyling Pitch and Brim-
stone; the *Almannes* Army fled, and the king of *England* with his
Forces, run away. Sir *Murice's* Lady seeing this, threw self



down from the *Crosse*, and broke her neck: then *Bevis* gave rich
gifts to the Souldiers, and was placed in *Southampton*: then he
married *Josie*, and afterwards went to do homage to king *Edgar*,
who was exceeding joyful to see *Bevis*, and made him Lord Marshal
of *England*: the king's son would have bought *Arundel*, but *Bevis*
would not sell it for gold nor silver: then the prince would
take him by force, but coming into the Stable, *Arundel* beat out
his brains: the king hearing this, was in wrath with *Bevis*, and
swore he should dye: but at last it was concluded, he should only
be banished the land: so *Bevis* surrendered all his whole Estate to
Sir *Solert*, and took *Josie*, *Terry*, and *Ascapart* along with him,
and



And as they went, *Josian* fell in labour; then were they in a Forrest, and *Josian* bid them walk away till she was delivered; So *Terry* & *Bevis* went together, and *Ascapart* went another way; and when she was delivered, *Ascapart* came to *Josian*, and carryed her away: *Bevis* and *Terry* came and found two Children, but not the Mocher, so *Bevis* took the Infants, naming the eldest *Guy*, and the younger *John*, and went his way, and in his Journey met, accidentally, with a Forrester and a Fisherman, whom with good store of gold he hired to take his Children to *Norm*, & assured them at seven years end, to bring them to him, *Bevis* of *Hants*, and they should be rewarded to the full of their wages. They took the Infants and the Forrester promising to perform all things as he directed, and *Bevis* and his Sons parted; but *Satan* and *Devil* sought to kill him, and his Sons, in *Palmer's Wood*, and overtook him near the City of *Maintbrant*, fought with him, and slew him on the place: Thus he redeemed his Sons, to his great Joy, and carrying her to her Inn, there he lived with the two Sons *Terry*; in which time they compleat their happiness, the Forrester and Fisherman, who were *Bevis*'s two Sons, came to them, and gave them gold, gave them great Riches, and caused them to be made Knights: soon after this, there began a fierce War between *King* of *Maintbrant*, and *Erasmus*, King of *Armeny*, for *Josian*'s sake; whereupon *Bevis* went to the aid of *Erasmus*, and took *King* *Jour* prisoner, for whose Ransome, he had Twenty tun of Gold, and three Hundred white Steeds.

King Erasmus was so highly affected with his favour, that for *Bevis*, his sake, he turned Christian, and a little before his decease, Crowned *Guy* King of *Armeny*, and *Miles* he made a Knight, where they lived a space in great happiness and felicity, but *King* *Jour* bearing an inward grudge, or Invenetice malice against *Bevis*, he once more desired to try the fortune of war with him; so he raised a great Army of Heathenish *Saxons*, who with undaunted Courage assailed *Bevis* in *Armeny*, being led on by *King* *Jour* himself in person: These charged not so gallantly, but they were repulsed as bravely, and in short time totally routed the unconquerable power of our *English* Knights: In this skirmish, *King* *Bevis* meeting *King* *Jour*, had a single combat with him, in which fight, after

after many bloody strokes on both sides, king *Jour* was slain, & his Army was wholly vanquished: *Bevis* then putting on the Armor of king *Jour*, rode to the City of *Mambrant*, where he was received and welcomed home by the people: Instead of their king: He no sooner got possession of the place, but he made them all become his servants, and renounce their false gods, and turn Christians, and by this means, his fair Lady *Jofan*, was the second time at *Mambrant*.



E. H. A. P. 120

Containing the Conclusion of the History

WHEN *Sabre* continued thus with *Bevis*, tidings came unto him, that his wife was dishonoured by *Edgar*, king of England; whereupon, he, with *Bevis*, *Jofan*, and his two Sons, *Guy* and *Miles*, marcht so London with a great Army, and fought againſt king *Edgar*, ſlew two thouſand of his Soldiers for the wrong he had done unto him, and to *Sabre*, and then he returned to *Southampton*, where king *Edgar* lent unto him for a parly, and in the concluſion made a peace with him, and agreed to marry his eldeſt Daughter unto *Miles* (*Bevis* his Son) whom at that time alſo he made Earl of *Cornwall*, the wedding being ſolemnized with great Joy, and variety of Courtly Re creations. *Sir Bevis* with *Jofan*, and *Guy* his Eldeſt Son returned to their ſeveral homes. After this, *Bevis* lived in *Mambrant*, and then *Jofan* fell ſick, who was accompanied with her beloved Husband both in ſickneſs and in Death: they dyed both in one day, and were ſolemnly interred in one Grave, by *Guy* their ſon, who raiſed a ſtately Tomb over them, to the Everlaſting Memory of ſo Gallant a Knight, and his moſt Royal Conſtant Lady.

So I conclude this Romance As here you ſee,
For Time and Death brings all things to an END.

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